

COUNTRY

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REPORT NO.

TOPIC

Parade of the Volkspolizei

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

7 October 1952

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

11 December 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. About 3,300 VPs participated in the parade held in Berlin on 7 October 1952 which celebrated the anniversary of the foundation of the German Democratic Republic. The VPs were unarmed, only officers carried pistols. Eleven VP generals, who wore the new VP uniforms, were observed on the reviewing platform. No Soviet troops participated in the parade.
2. The parade was led by a unit of about 100 men on motorcycles who carried a standard. This unit was followed by a military band composed of army and sea police personnel. A general and five officers marched behind the band. They led the first VP unit of 18 officers and 500 men who wore crimson epaulets. The second and third VP units which had the same composition were black and dark-blue epaulets respectively. The fourth unit, which was led by an officer and two female officers consisted of two details of 100 women each. The fifth unit was similar to the first unit in composition and strength. The men of this unit wore green epaulets. They apparently belonged to the border police, because they carried a banner of the border police. The sixth unit, whose men wore light-blue epaulets, belonged to the air police, and the seventh unit was composed of sea police personnel who wore their old style uniforms. The two latter units had the same strength as the first unit.<sup>2</sup>
3. Except for the sea police, the VP personnel observed at the parade wore the new olive drab uniform. The generals wore red ribbons around their caps with gold hat cords, gold epaulets and double red stripes along the outer seams of their trousers. The other officers had the ribbons around their caps, collar patches and pipings on their trousers in the respective service color. They wore silver epaulets with up to 4 stars as worn by Soviet officers. The NCO wore epaulets of the type previously worn in the German Army. They too had collar patches and pipings in their respective service color. Photographs of the parading VP were made.

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1.  Comment.  a total of about 5,000 men participated in the VP parade.

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2.  Comment. It is believed that red service color is worn by infantry units, black by tank troops and artillery units and green by the border police.

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

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